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Wm. Carey Jones

◆ ADDRESS ◆

◆ BY ◆

C. HARTSON,

AT SONOMA,

Before the Veterans of the Mexican War,

July 4, 1887.

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SONOMA, August 4, 1887.

HON. C. HARTSON—*Dear Sir:* The Fourth of July Committee has instructed me officially to thank you for your instructive and able address delivered here before the Mexican Veterans and citizens of Sonoma valley on the 4th ult., and to request a copy for publication.

We are very grateful to you for this, as well as many other acts of kindness and consideration shown to the people of this valley.

Very respectfully,

ROBERT A. POPPE,

Secretary Fourth of July Committee.

Resolved—That it would be in a high degree gratifying to the Veterans of the Mexican War, if Hon. Chancellor Hartson and R. A. Poppe would kindly supply the press with copies, for publication, of their respective addresses, delivered to their fellow-citizens in Sonoma on the Fourth of July instant, to the end that the very interesting matters so ably treated therein may find their appropriate places in the history of our country. and we respectfully request them to acquiesce in this desire.

Resolved—That the Secretary of this Association be, and he is hereby instructed to forward to each of the gentlemen named, a copy of foregoing resolution.

T. W. TALIAFERRO.

I hereby certify that the above resolutions were unanimously adopted at a regular meeting of the Association held July 14, 1887.

[SEAL.]

H. LOUIS VON GEISTEFIELD, *Secretary.*
San Francisco, July 18, 1887.

ADDRESS

— BY —

C. HARTSON,

Sonoma, July 4, 1887.

For more than a century the morning sun of this day has been welcomed by all of the people of the United States with booming cannon, with acclamations and tumultuous joy; and it has descended behind the evening curtains amid eulogies, hosannas, bonfires and illuminations.

This is the anniversary of an event that has produced the most salutary effect, teaching nations the capacity of man for self-government and checking the exercise of despotic power by the establishment of the government of a great people on principles of reason, justice, equality and natural law.

We have met here not only to commemorate

the day on which the Colonies separated from the Mother Country, the natal day of our Republic, but the day of the birth of liberty on this Western Continent; the day when free institutions were adopted by a great nation with the declaration emblazoned upon our country's standard that all men were created free and equal and entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

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TIME OF RECONCILIATION.

We now meet to reflect upon our history and consider our present standing, to view the instructive tablets and the historic paintings in the galleries of our country's achievements.

We meet reverentially and deferentially, and we trust with hearts full of kindness and charity, to thank those that met the frown of power, and hazarded everything for our peace and happiness; and also to speak words of cheer and encouragement to our countrymen, witnesses with us of our country's grandeur and glory, and, like us, recipients of its benefits.

This is especially the day when under a common standard, by the inspiration of common interests, with a common heritage achieved by common ancestral sacrifice and with a common

destiny, kindnesses may be revived and engendered, virtues be remembered and magnified, and faults be forgiven and forgotten.

This is the appropriate time and occasion to unite and harmonize under the stainless and ample folds of our country's flag, on which should be inscribed in letters of living light by all Americans with fraternal hands, "Liberty and union not alone of country, but of countrymen, now and forever."

UNIVERSALITY OF FREEDOM.

We welcome to the festivities of this day, we invite to participate with us in these rejoicings, all who fraternize with us in these principles and sentiments; all who worship at the shrine of liberty regulated by law; all whose hearts glow with patriotic exultation, at the mention of the names of Washington, Lafayette and the Revolutionary heroes.

We give the right hand of fellowship to all of our faith, whether they come from the land of Garibaldi or Hampden, Baron Steuben or Kosciusko, or any other part of the globe; all such are welcomed as brethren in this celebration of our country's birth and progress. Here at this banquet we hail him as brother, whose

heart responds to the canons of law and order and freedom.

TERRITORIAL EXPANSION.

At the time of the revolution there were thirteen colonies lying on the Atlantic coast with claim to inlying and adjacent territory lying east of the Mississippi river and north of latitude 31 degrees.

Since the Declaration of Independence not only has the commerce, the wealth and the population of the Republic increased with amazing rapidity, but its bounds have been extended and its area greatly enlarged.

There has been corresponding progress in every department of the Government, improvement in the methods of its administration, perfection of its principles, development of its resources and enlargement of its domain.

The tree of liberty early planted on the Atlantic shores has grown, extending its roots and branches to the Pacific, and now waves its golden foliage on the summit of the Sierras; fanned and watered by the breezes and exhalations of the two distant and mighty oceans.

While our speeches teem with well-deserved eulogies of our native land, and while we speak

in terms of highest commendation of the fabulous increase of our population and our material progress, I trust that it will not be without interest and profit to briefly consider the prodigious enlargement of our borders.

LOUISIANA.

This important possession was ceded to the United States by France on the 30th of April, 1803, by treaty, and on the 30th of October following, the treaty was ratified by the United States. Spain then held the Floridas, and the boundaries of the French and Spanish provinces in America were not well defined or understood. France then claimed from the Floridas to the Rio Grande.

SPANISH TREATY OF 1795.

By a treaty between the United States and Spain of October 27, 1795, our western boundary was fixed in the middle of the Mississippi, down to the 31st degree of latitude, and the navigation of the whole breadth of the river from its source to the ocean, was to be free to the subjects and citizens of both countries.

CESSION OF THE FLORIDAS AND OREGON.

Spain, by a treaty concluded on the 22d day of February, 1819, and ratified on the 24th day

of October, 1820, ceded to the United States all of her territory east of the Mississippi known as East and West Florida, and also a large territory west of the Mississippi, extending to the Pacific Ocean and its western division, bounded on the south by latitude 42 degrees north, including Oregon and Washington Territories in the cession.

THE ANNEXATION OF TEXAS.

Among the last Acts passed during the administration of President Tyler was the annexing of Texas to the United States, which was ratified at a convention held by the people of Texas on the 4th day of July, 1845.

CALIFORNIA, NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA.

By a treaty of peace, friendship, security and settlement made in the month of February, 1848, Mexico ceded to the United States, New Mexico, Upper California and Arizona, with a part of Utah and Colorado.

ALASKA.

In the year 1867, Alaska was purchased from Russia and became a possession of the United States. Alaska has an area of 531,409 square miles. The United States, including all the

States and Territories, is credited with an area of 3,547,000 square miles.

DISPUTED BOUNDARIES.

Several times disputes of the most serious and alarming nature have arisen between the United States and Britain in regard to the boundary of the Canadas and British Columbia. Fortunately these have been amicably adjusted by negotiations.

Thus step by step, have the boundaries of our commonwealth advanced, as its wealth and population have increased, until each is expressed by figures of stupendous magnitude. Our population is so vast that it exceeds sixty millions. Measured by square miles, the extent of our country is so great that it contains more than three and one-half millions, and our wealth is forty-five thousand million dollars.

THE SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION.

Those who took part in the War for Independence have all yielded to nature's fiat, more powerful than the thunders of battle. They all sleep in the land rescued from tyranny and made sacred by their spirit and bravery. They are all now in the tender care of Him who regardeth

with interest the lily's beauty and the sparrow's safety.

The heroes of Lundy's Lane and of the various battles of the War of 1812, on land and on sea, are sleeping gently side by side with their Revolutionary sires, and will no more be roused by the sharp command or martial music or the bursting shell.

But notwithstanding their bodies lie mouldering in the dust, yet their heroic actions, their noble characters, and the principles of liberty by them exalted and established still live, radiating their sacred and powerful influences outward to the very circumference of mankind and onward to the end of time, scattering benedictions over the length and breadth of the world.

THE MEXICAN WAR AND MEXICAN VETERANS.

Yet we have this day with us those who, to sustain the Government of the United States and defend its honor and flag, have taken part in the impetuous charge and successful repulse, on battle-fields strewn with our dead and dying countrymen.

We have with us veterans of many a well-fought battle of that war, of which I will attempt a brief description.

The annexation of Texas engendered the most bitter and hostile spirit towards the United States, by Mexico. The ownership of the territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, had been a subject of dispute between Mexico and Texas.

Under authority of the Government of the United States, General Taylor on the 28th of March, 1846, took possession of this territory and constructed Fort Brown opposite Matamoras on the other side of the Rio Grande. Early in May following, General Arista, Commander-in-Chief of the Mexican forces, with 6,000 men, crossed the Rio Grande, and on the 8th of that month attacked General Taylor with a command of 2,300 at Palo Alto. The next day a most sanguinary battle was fought at Resaca de la Palma, where the Mexican army was overwhelmed and driven across the Rio Grande. September the 9th, General Taylor, with 6,625 men, marched against Monterey, which was defended by General Ampudia with 10,000 regular troops. General Taylor assaulted the place, and, after three days of desperate fighting, General Ampudia surrendered. On the 21st of February, 1847, General Santa Ana with 21,000 veteran troops, the flower of the Mexican army,

attacked General Taylor with a much smaller command at Buena Vista and was most signally defeated. During the rest of the war the valley of the Rio Grande remained in the quiet possession of our forces.

GENERAL SCOTT

On the 9th of March, 1847, landed 12,000 men at Vera Cruz for the purpose of its capture, and also the capture of the city of Mexico. Nearly thirty years before, General Scott had shown skill and bravery scarcely paralleled in the annals of warfare, in one of the most hotly contested battles of the War of 1812.

On the 22d of March, General Scott besieged Vera Cruz with bomb and battery and all the appliances of war.

On the fifth day of the siege, the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa, built to defy bomb and all the engineering of war, yielded to the fierce and continuous assault, and the city with its supposed impregnable castle surrendered. After this capture, General Scott with 8,500 men pushed on over the national highways to attack the Mexican capital. About fifty miles from Vera Cruz, Gen. Santa Ana with a force of about 12,000 had fortified the Pass of Cerro Gordo, and was pre-

pared to contest the advance of our army. The Mexican forces had all the advantages in numbers, in position and in preparation. A terrific battle ensued.

The victory of our arms was brilliant and decisive. The loss on the battle-field was great on both sides. The Mexican official journal attributes the disastrous result to "inevitable misfortune, the result of the tactics of the invader, that no expectations were entertained of the rare, bold and desperate operations of the enemy."

Five months afterwards, the American flag floated over the Mexican capital amid the exultations of as brave an army as time has witnessed.

General Scott's great reputation was not diminished by his rapid and successful movements in Mexico. General Taylor's brilliant achievements on the Rio Grande, from Palo Alto to Buena Vista, had deservedly given him high rank among military chieftians. Each left Mexico the idol of the army, and greatly admired by their countrymen for their gallantry and heroism.

CALIFORNIA.

While these stirring events were occurring in

Mexico, California was the scene of intense excitement. The Government of the United States, anticipating a conflict in California, dispatched Commodore Stockton in October, 1845, with re-enforcements to the squadron then on the Pacific Coast under the command of Commodore Sloat, whom he succeeded on his arrival at Monterey. Also General Kearney, then in command of the Army of the West, received an order to repair to the Pacific Coast. He proceeded through New Mexico by the way of Santa Fe to Southern California, and on the 6th of December, 1846, with his command participated in the battle of San Pascual. Kearney commanded the marines, sailors, volunteers and a detachment of dragoons in the battles of San Gabriel and battles on the plains of Mesa, January 8th and 9th, 1847.

Captain Fremont in the spring of 1845 set out on his third expedition to explore the land and maritime facilities of California and Oregon, and with his command reached California in the spring of 1845, having crossed the Sierras in mid-winter. General Castro, the Governor of California, regarded Fremont's presence as unfriendly and prepared to attack him. Fremont concluded to go north in the execution of the purposes of his mission. A bearer of dispatches

from Washington overtook him on the 9th of May, 1846, near the Klamath Lake, and directed him to return to California, observe movements, and await orders. He promptly retraced his steps and raised the flag of Independence, and was supported by the American settlers who flocked to his standard. On the 27th day of May, Fremont organized the California Battalion, of which he was appointed Major. On July 4th, 1846, Fremont was elected Governor of California by the settlers. As soon as the news arrived that war existed between the United States and Mexico, the project of making California an independent State was abandoned. On the 19th of July, 1846, Fremont with 160 mounted riflemen joined Commodore Sloat's forces at Monterey. About the same time Commodore Stockton arrived at Monterey with the frigate Congress and took command of the Pacific squadron with authority to conquer California. Stockton appointed Fremont Military Commander and Civil Governor.

Active measures were taken by the land and naval forces to make a complete conquest of the country, which was perfected on the 13th of January, 1847, by Articles of Capitulation that

left the country permanently in the possession of the United States.

Attending the war in California there were many thrilling adventures, and much personal bravery was exhibited by our citizen soldiers.

It is especially fitting that these services should be had here in Sonoma, and that this day should be celebrated at this place made memorable by early and conspicuous acts of valor and patriotism, which have been so faithfully and eloquently described by your own esteemed citizen and orator, Mr. Poppe, and by your honored President of this day's proceedings, Mr. Howe.

In the war with Mexico, the sons of every section of the Union fought and fell side by side. The Mexican battalions were brave and desperate, but had not the fortitude and steadiness that a colder climate and thorough drill gave to our soldiers.

Our army encountered not only Mexican bayonets, but the pestilential climate of Mexico—more destructive than bayonets and bullets.

The parched sands and heated atmosphere of that southern clime licked up some of the best blood of our army. Long may the survivors live

to enjoy the excellencies of the Government they defended, and the gratitude of the people.

OUR REVOLUTION

Has been so often the theme of discourse, and its great events, beginning with Bunker Hill and ending with Yorktown, so minutely described, that they are familiar to all.

In this war our forefathers encountered a foe hardy, disciplined with drill and battle, and animated with the flush of victories on hundreds of ensanguined fields.

For seven long years, in poverty and destitution they contended against the most wealthy and the most powerful nation on the globe.

The memory of those who have sacrificed their lives for their country, and those who survived the shock of battle, is made immortal not alone through the pages of history, but by the institutions they founded and the monuments they have erected to arts, science and arms from ocean to ocean. The enterprises, the improvements, and the social system as well as political, of this great commonwealth, rise up to witness the immensity, as well as the grandeur of their achievements.

The deeds of valor displayed at Lexington,

Bunker Hill, Yorktown, and on the battle-fields of the Revolution will be recited with thrilling interest so long as patriotism and courage are respected; so long as civil and religious liberty and free government are admired by men.

DR. JOSEPH WARREN.

What name amid the innumerable distinguished names of the world's annals shines with more luster than that of Dr. Joseph Warren, one of the martyrs of the American Revolution?

We do not need to recur to the fields of Marathon and Thermopylæ for examples of heroism and patriotic virtue, but can find them in our own country and among our own forefathers. We behold the highest lessons of patriotism and chivalric character in the contemplation of the exploits and sacrifices of our own countrymen.

Gen. Warren's death, like that of many others, was a source of intense public, widespread grief. "Among the dead (is recorded in the Massachusetts Congressional Archives of the battle of Bunker Hill) was Major-General Joseph Warren, a man whose memory will be endeared to his countrymen and to the worthy in every part and age of the world so long as

virtue and valor shall be esteemed among mankind."

We have come here this day to pay a grateful tribute to all those who have joined in battle in our country's cause, whether at Lexington or Cerro Gordo, at Monmouth or Buena Vista; and let no inauspicious age come that bears not witness of our gratitude for their services and their worth.

We come here to pay a tribute to all of those who have by endurance, by fortitude, by bravery, and by suffering, contributed to build up this great nation, whether falling in the tempests of the ocean, through the hardships of early settlements, by the tomahawk of the savage, by the soldiers of the Mother Country or a foreign foe. Wherever the bones of our countrymen lie bleaching, from Maine to Oregon, they having fallen in the great struggle for freedom and nationality, we come here to join in reverent and grateful remembrance of their names, their services and their sufferings.

The battles of constitutional liberty have been nobly fought, and the inestimable prize won at terrible cost.

To secure the independence of the United States from Great Britain, and to defend the

country from foreign aggressions, have cost indescribable hardships and sufferings, and the best blood of the nation.

The ensanguined fields of Saratoga and Yorktown, of Cerro Gordo and Chapultepec, are memorials of the sacrifices made and the great work accomplished.

The freedom of our country is our heroes' epitaph; its prosperity, its peace and its happiness their everlasting memorial.

And until "the skies fade and the sun grows dim and nature sinks in years." may this and the long procession of coming generations rally around and be true to the star spangled banner and proclaim worthy of the highest gratitude and admiration those who bore it gallantly and triumphantly on the fields of carnage, through the smoke and thunders of battle, with faith and courage daring the quick stroke of the flashing saber, the piercing bayonet, the crashing shot and screeching shell.

The people of the United States have not only repelled invasion and thrown off the yoke of foreign and despotic power, but they have reorganized their own political and social system on the principles of equality and justice, and established a Republic adapted to the develop-

ment of enterprise, to the unfolding of talent, to the exhibition of the loftiest flights of genius, and to the creation of the most exalted and sublime character.

The citizens of this Republic can now exclaim:

“Oh liberty ! heaven’s choice prerogative.
True bond of law : thou social soul of property :
Thou breath of reason : life of life itself.”

PERILS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

In the early ages of the world one of the greatest disturbing elements, which imperilled the peace and perpetuity of nations, was the conflict between the common people and the nobles; between the plebeian and patrician.

This difference was so great, the evils resulting from class dissensions so powerful and malign that it assumed the expressive name of “the irrepressible conflict.”

Pestilence and famine could only temporarily stifle the spirit of discord.

The historian of Italy records that four hundred and fifty years before the Christian era a terrible pestilence again and again swept the Roman Empire. The woes of the land were so great that there was a temporary cessation of

hostilities between the common people and the nobles, but when better times dawned upon the country the old conflict revived. It was this fell spirit that caused Cassius and Brutus to imbrue their hands in the blood of Cæsar.

Happily there is no occasion for such a conflict in this Republic. We have the principles of equality and equal rights inscribed in a Constitution more enduring than the twelve tablets of brass which contained the Roman Constitution.

There should be no tyranny of wealth and rank over popular rights in this country. There is the same law, the same government and the same tribunals of justice for all, and the doctrine of equality is so thoroughly implanted in the Constitution and in the hearts of our countrymen that nothing but the utter demoralization of the people and the most dire and bloody revolution can disturb it.

All just causes of internal strife and intestine war are removed. There is nothing in our social fabric, or in the laws of the land, or in the principles of our Government to array class against class or interest against interest, but distrust and dissension are absolutely forbidden

by the spirit of our laws and the genius of our Government.

Happily this is the land where the various and multiform interests are united by the bonds of mutual dependence and mutual benefit. There is no real antagonism between the various departments of industry, no more than there is between intellect and organism, or between the brain and hand.

The tares of Nihilism, anarchism and dynamitism are not the productions of our forefathers or of our Government, and should be plucked up and burned in unquenchable fire.

In building up society and State some may contribute one commodity and some another, some capital and some labor, and all harmonize in producing individual profit, individual happiness and public prosperity.

There is no just or reasonable cause of clashing in rights or interests, public or private. All have the absolute right to determine their engagements and pursuits in life, providing they do not infringe upon the rights of others or are not engaged in business detrimental to the safety of the State, and all alike have the same constitutional guarantee of security to their persons, property and pursuits.

Every one in this Republic has not only the right of the protection of law, but he has the conscience, the intelligence, the honor and the power of the nation to protect him and enforce the law, and woe will betide any nation when it has neither the spirit nor power to afford that protection.

That this protection may be intelligent and effective, school houses, lecture rooms and churches adorn the land. To enlighten the mind, to enliven conscience, to elevate purpose, ambition and taste is the object of education.

A SYSTEM OF FREE SCHOOLS

Has been established, and has made accessible to all, places of usefulness, influence and honor. In these schools sound public sentiments are promulgated, and love of order and respect for law are taught. In these nurseries for the young, respect for virtue is cultivated, and the glorious traditions of ancestral renown are recited and preserved and religion honored.

As we study the history of our country, its institutions, its industries, the capacity of our climate and soil for unlimited production, the material resources and intellectual and spiritual

aspirations of our people, a boundless field of future prosperity and glory is unfolded.

Education embraces a broad field. It does not consist simply in mastering mathematics, the classics, literature and the arts, but in restraining the passions, and in cultivating and inspiring patriotic, worthy and lofty motives.

THE SAFETY OF THE REPUBLIC

Depends not alone upon the diffusion of knowledge in colleges, public schools and churches, but largely to

HOME INFLUENCE AND A MOTHER'S CARE.

There exists a power, a noiseless, ceaseless and uncomplaining agency connected with every individual life, whose importance cannot be over-estimated. To do justice to maternal influence and authority, and as a most worthy and deserving tribute to mothers, I cheerfully adopt the language of the most eminent statesman that America has produced.

It is the promulgation of sound morals in the community, and more especially by the training and instruction of the young, that woman performs her part toward the preservation of a free Government. It is generally admitted that public liberty and the perpetuity of a free constitu-

tion rest on the intelligence and the virtue of the community which enjoys it. How is that virtue to be inspired, and how is that intelligence to be imparted? Bonaparte once asked Madame de Stael, in what manner he could best promote the happiness of France? Her reply is full of political wisdom. She said, instruct the mothers of the French people. Mothers are indeed the affectionate and effective teachers of the human race. The mother begins her process of training with the infant in her arms. It is she, so to speak, that directs its first mental and spiritual pulsations. She conducts it along the impressible years of childhood and youth and hopes to deliver it to the stern conflicts and tumultuous scenes of life, armed with those good principles which her child has received from maternal care and love.

If we draw within the circle of our contemplation the mothers of a civilized nation, what do we see? We behold so many artificers working not on frail and perishable matter, but on the immortal mind, moulding and fashioning beings who are to live forever. We applaud the artist whose skill and genius present the mimic man on canvas; we admire and celebrate the sculptor who works out that same image in enduring

marble ; but how insignificant are these achievements, though the highest and the fairest in all the departments of art, in comparison with the great vocation of mothers ? They work not on canvas that shall perish or the marble that shall crumble into dust, but upon mind, upon spirit, which is to last forever, and which is to bear for good or evil throughout its duration the impress of a mother's plastic hand.

THE PRINCIPLES

Of our Government are pure and correct. It is the work of masters and heroes. The seeds of permanent friendship, order and tranquillity are planted everywhere, and universal accord is now assured in the patriotic sentiment, " Liberty and union, one and inseparable, now and forever."

Wherever civilization carries its cheer and hopes, the rise and progress of our Republic, and the events of its history, excite deep and vital interest and produce a most salutary effect.

There is nothing in our form of government to render it unstable or the rights of its citizens insecure if intelligently and honestly administered.

Through great tribulation its defects have been discovered and corrected, and it is now regenerated and established on the rock of justice and equality.

The divine truths entertained and espoused by Patrick Henry, Adams, Otis and Jefferson were early published to the world, have been submitted to the arbitrament of war, refined and perfected in the blaze of battle, established at the mouth of the cannon, and recorded in the Constitution of the United States, there to remain the fundamental law of the land, undimmed by time forever.

As long as the sun rises and trees blossom, as long as universal nature moves on in harmonious action in the consummation of Jehovah's great plan, so long may coming generations reverence the heroic past, maintain the cardinal principles of our Constitution, Justice, Equality and Liberty, sustain and uphold this Republic, and enable it to fulfill its high destiny,

"The hope of all who suffer ;
The fear of all who wrong."

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